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REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are pending in this application, and were rejected. Claims 1, 13, 21 and 22 are currently amended. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The reasons stated in the office action for maintaining the previous rejections based on Wilkes and Heegard are basically that the "content type" distinction is unsupported by the specification, and that the distinction will not be given patentable weight anyway because it was recited in the preamble of the claims. Applicant concedes that the exact term "content type" does not appear in the specification, but it is clear from the specification that searching for content type is the purpose of the invention. For example, the field of the invention is "content switching." Page 1, line 20. Nevertheless, Applicant has amended the claims to recite the language used in the specification. See, for example, page 1, lines 24-25 which recites "content switches search through packets of data to identify the nature of the traffic so that they make an intelligent switching decision based on the traffic content." Note also page 8, lines 3-8 where parallel pattern searching is described. Applicant does not claim to have invented the concept of checksums, nor content switching in general. Rather, Applicant asserts that claims 1, 13, 21 and 22 distinguish the cited references by reciting parallel searches for patterns of different lengths associated with traffic content using checksums, and making switching decisions based at least in part on matches indicative of traffic content. The cited combination fails to suggest either parallel searches or their use for content switching. Claims 2-12, and 14-20 are dependent claims which further distinguish their respective base claims. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-22 is requested.

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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned, Applicants' Attorney at 978-264-4001 (X305) so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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